From: Michel Selva
To: Siddiqui, Sumbul
Subject: the Hewlett Packard boycott resolution
Date: Thursday, April 19, 2018 11:59:40 AM

Councillor Siddiqui —

I understand that the City Council is considering a resolution endorsing a boycott of Hewlett Packard (HP) in response to the fact that HP is doing business with the state of Israel. **I strongly urge you to vote NO on this resolution**. Here are a few things to consider:

1. **Endorsing this boycott is not in the interests of the City of Cambridge**. In fact, it reflects badly on our city if the Council takes sides in a complex issue such as this. It also reflects badly on the Council when it devotes time & energy to extraneous issues. Cambridge is a great place to live & raise a family, and I would like the Council to focus on enhancing the quality of life here. **A resolution like this has no place on the agenda of our City Council**.
2. **The boycott is not in the long term interests of the Palestinian people**. It is not the state of Israel which is holding them back; it is their own corrupt and short-sighted leadership. Israel is the economic powerhouse of the middle East, and its success has brought prosperity to all of its citizens, including Palestinians.
3. **The boycott does not support human rights**. In fact, it denigrates the one country in the Middle East that has done the most to protect the rights of women, gay people, Muslims, Christians, and other vulnerable populations.
4. **The boycott does nothing to further the prospects of peace in the Middle East**. In fact, the boycott gives aid and comfort to **a movement that ultimately seeks the destruction of the state of Israel**. If you attend a protest sponsored by groups that endorse the "Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions" (BDS) movement, you are likely to hear someone with a bullhorn leading the crowd in chants like this:

   "From the river to the sea,
   Palestine will be free."

   This slogan is explicit call for a state of Palestine that starts at the Mediterranean Sea and ends at the Jordan River. In other words, no more Israel. "BDS" really stands for "**Bullying, Deception, and Slander**." I do not want my elected officials to associate themselves with this hateful cause.

If your schedule permits, I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters further with you, either in person or on the phone.

Thank you.


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